



Spring enrollment increases 13.6 percent

No matter how you measure it, enrollment levels are increasing at a record rate. Spring enrollment collegewide is up 13.6* percent over last year, a figure which includes a 22 percent increase in the four-year programs.

“In my 18 years here, we have never served more students” said Pat Rinard, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management. “It is directly related to the economy.

Students are going back to school to retool, to get new skills.”

On Jan. 16, the unduplicated credit-seeking headcount was 30,306 at the end of the add/drop period. On the same day last year, the unduplicated credit-seeking headcount was 26,675.

Rinard thinks the larger turnout is also due in part to the State *Increase, continued on Page 2*

African American History Month loaded with special celebrations on SPC campuses



Carter G. Woodson

Since the beginning of February, students, staff and faculty on all campuses have enjoyed the tastes and cultural delights of African American History Month.

This week, the Clearwater Campus enjoyed “A Spiritual Awakening” and “A Taste of Soul”, events that highlighted the spiritual and culinary aspects of African American culture. [Celebrations on all SPC campuses](#) will continue through the end of February, featuring music, movies, discussion forums and other festivities.

According to the [African American History Month \(Library of Congress\) Web site](#), Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson announced Negro

Celebrations, continued on Page 3

CUT!: Costume and the Cinema

More than 40 period costumes worn in films by Johnny Depp, Heath Ledger, Keira Knightley,

Ralph Fiennes, Daniel Craig, Kate Winslet and Uma Thurman and other actors, are the stars of a new exhibition at Florida International Museum at St. Petersburg College. The exhibit showcases the art of making costumes for film.



February is African American History Month

Check the [events calendar](#) for details on events at your campus.

Visit the online version of the Blue & White <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/news/blueandwhite.htm> for links to the following weekly columns:

- Birthdays/anniversaries
- Cultural Corner
- Locker Room
- SPC TV
- SPC This week
- Sustainable SPC
- SPC Wellness and
- Visual Calendar

Increase, continued from Page 1

University System turning away students by capping enrollment.

“Students who may normally have gone to a university are coming to us,” he said. Collegewide enrollment increased 14 percent last term and 6.2 percent during the summer. He expects the number this term to climb even higher with the addition of express and eight-week session enrollments.

Full time equivalency enrollment also is up 14.8 percent this term.

FTE is calculated by the number of credits each student takes. To be considered full time, a student must be enrolled in 12 credit hours during the fall or spring terms. If two students are enrolled in six credits each, together they count as one full-time student.

The April 2006 Florida Board of Governors’ Information Brief states that the primary use of FTE in Florida is to calculate funding. All colleges and universities must remain within a specific corridor of funded enrollment or they will

experience a decrease in state funding.

Some SPC campuses have experienced greater increases in enrollment than others. SPC Downtown enrollment leads with 42 percent.

“It has been such a tremendous growth curve,” said Yvonne Ulmer, Executive Officer of SPC Downtown. “We started out with a particular schedule of predicted courses, but then found that a lot of our composition classes, basic writing classes, and mathematics classes were closed weeks before the start of the term.

“As the administrator of the campus, you have to be looking outward and see where we can meet the needs of the community,” Ulmer said.

Mark Matthews, lead instructor of the new Music Industry/Recording Arts (MIRA) program, decided to do precisely that. He helped create a new music technology program at the St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus.

MIRA, which unofficially started in fall 2008 by offering a studio music applications course, officially started as an Associate of Science degree in fall 2009.

“We started with 12 kids,” Matthews said. “There’s approximately 150 kids in the program now, just a year-and-a-half later.”

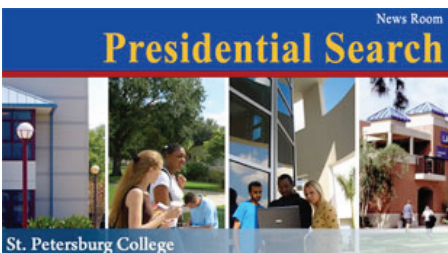
He said that this term’s turnout was staggering.

“Some of the courses filled the first day of registration,” Matthews said. “By two in the afternoon the classes were closed.

“We are in a position where we need to control enrollment because it is so popular,” he said. “But I want the students to know that we are accommodating what we can do. We’re not going to bring people in and then not be able to serve them.”

** For consistency, this number was calculated on the add/drop dates of the terms referred to in this story.*

Presidential candidates narrowed to four finalists



The SPC Presidential Search Committee narrowed the field to [four finalists](#) on Feb. 4, 2010.

They are:

[Paula Marie Gastenveld](#), Assistant to the Chancellor for Workforce Development, Academic and Student

Affairs, Kentucky Community and Technical College System, Versailles, Ky.

[Thomas Keegan](#), President, Peninsula College, Port Angeles, Wash.

[William D. Law Jr.](#), President, Tallahassee Community College

[B. Kaye Walter](#), Executive VP/Chief Learning Officer, Valencia Community College, Orlando

The finalists’ names will be presented to the Board of Trustees at a special meeting at 9 a.m. Feb. 12. Pending approval of the board at that time, the finalists will then be scheduled for visits to the college. They will visit all college locations and interview with the Board of Trustees.

The Blue & White

Editor: Mike O’Keeffe | Web

Designer: Barbara Wolter |

Writers: Casey Feldkamp and Bill Frederick

Blue & White is produced weekly by SPC’s Office of Institutional Advancement, to communicate administrative and staff information to college employees. Submissions should be received no later than Friday noon for publication the following Friday. Send them by e-mail to **norton.wilma@spcollege.edu** or send by campus mail to Institutional Advancement, EpiCenter Services.

Celebrations, continued from Page 1

History Week in 1925 and it was first celebrated in 1926. The event expanded to a month-long celebration in 1976 called Black History Month, and is more commonly now referred to as African American History Month.

This year's theme, [The History of Black Economic Empowerment](#), recognizes the work and success of:

- Jacob Lawrence, Harlem Renaissance painter (1917-2000)

- Annie Malone, entrepreneur and philanthropist (1869-1957)
- National Urban League, civil rights organization

Watch next week's Cultural Corner for an article on artist Jacob Lawrence.

SPC African-American History Month Celebrations (By Campus)

St. Petersburg/Gibbs

Date	Event	Time	Location
Feb. 5	Movie Event: "The Defiant Ones"	1 p.m.	LI 101
Feb. 6	Brain Bowl	9 a.m.-noon	SA 114
Feb. 12	Movie Event: "A Raisin in the Sun"	1 p.m.	LI 101
Feb. 18	Jubilee	Noon-2 p.m.	Quad
Feb. 19	Movie Event: "In the Heat of the Night"	1 p.m.	LI 101
Feb. 26	Movie Event: "To Sir With Love"	1 p.m.	LI 101
Feb. 26	Dr. Mac J. Williams Excellence Awards	7:30 p.m.	Gym
Feb. 27	Gospel Experience	6 p.m.	Music Center

Clearwater

Feb. 8	Discussion Forum: Knowing the Unknown	12:30 p.m.	LA 151
Feb. 12	Success and Obligation: Whose Dream is it, Anyway?	12:30 p.m.	Arts Auditorium
Feb. 18	Dr. Mac J. Williams Excellence Awards	7 p.m.	Arts Auditorium
Feb. 23	Black History Trivia Competition	5 p.m.	Teaching Auditorium
Feb. 24	Blacks in Science	5 p.m.	Arts Auditorium
Feb. 24	How Relationships Shape Our Sense of Community and Self	12:30 p.m.	Clearwater Library – Multipurpose Room

Tarpon Springs

Feb. 16	Movie Event: Disney's <i>The Princess and the Frog</i>	12:30 and 6:30 p.m.	FA 132
Feb. 17	Literature Forum	12:30 p.m.	FA 132
Feb. 24	Cultural Festival	Noon-2 p.m.	Student Center
Feb. 25	Dean Mitchell Exhibit Emphasis / Program		Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art

Downtown

Feb. 22	Ethiopian Food and Coffee	6:30-7 p.m.	Student Lounge
Feb. 22	Kuumba Dancers and Drummers	7-8 p.m.	Student Lounge
Feb. 26	Movie Event: "Do the Right Thing" with <i>St. Petersburg Times</i> critic Eric Deggans	11 a.m.-1:40 p.m.	Community Room – DC 210

Seminole

Feb. 18	Movie Event: "The Secret Life of Bees"	12:30 p.m.	Seminole Library (Program rooms A-B)
Feb. 25	Discussion Forum: Race and Ethnicity	12:30 p.m.	UP 303
Feb. 26	Dr. Mac J. Williams Excellence Awards	7 p.m.	Digitorium – UP 160

Midtown

Feb. 18	African American History Month Celebration: music, storytelling, catered by Saffron's	11 a.m.-1 p.m.	Lobby
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New Flexible Spending debit card simplifies life

By Bill Frederick

I've got a brand new debit card in my wallet, and it's making my Flexible Spending Account purchases a whole lot easier.

I didn't know that an FSA debit card even existed, and if I had I probably wouldn't have been all that excited about it. I already had two debit cards in my wallet, one for our joint checking account and another for a business account that I maintain. Another card would have just seemed to me like, well, just another card.

When added to such other occupants of my wallet as a driver's license, my Costco card, my AAA membership card, my Aetna cards and a whole bunch of other cards, I was already tilting precariously to one side when I sat down.

But then I had a conversation with Cynthia McLeod in Human Resources, and she changed my life. Not a big change, mind you, but a very nice small change.

First, we discussed the general pros and cons of a Flexible Spending Account. I have to admit to a certain amount of grumpiness about that part of the conversation, since I had just spent several hours putting together an FSA claim only to discover that I had neglected to sign up for the program in 2009.

Cynthia ignored my bad attitude and said, "Do you want an FSA debit card?"

I looked at her blankly. "A what?" "An FSA debit card," she repeated.

"You can get a debit card and use it to pay your co-pays for prescriptions, doctor visits, or anything that's covered under the Flexible Spending Account."

I thought about the ever-expanding girth of my wallet, but I couldn't think of a good reason to say no. "Sure, why not," I said.

Cynthia picked up the phone, made a call, and hung up. "Watch your mailbox," she said. "Cards for you and your wife are on the way."

Sure enough, a light blue Visa debit card arrived in the mail a few days later. A few days after that, another came for my wife Beth.

A few days after that, I was in line at Walgreen's to pick up a prescription refill when I remembered my new card.

"I just got this," I explained to the pharmacist. "Never used it before, and don't know if it will work, but let's give it a try."

I swiped the card and hit the little "debit" button. In the blink of an eye, the machine rejected the transaction.

"Try it again and this time hit 'credit,'" the pharmacist suggested. "For some reason most of these FSA debit cards only work when you run them as credit transactions."

I tried it again. Sure enough, it worked. Wow. There are a number of benefits to this card. The biggest is that you no longer have to take time out of your Saturday to put together an FSA claim.

Also, you don't have to wait for your money – the card pays out the co-pay right on the spot every time you make a purchase or visit the doctor or hospital.

Another nice feature is that it works for approved over-the-counter medical products. And I don't know exactly how it does this, but if you get a prescription refilled at the drug store, and also buy an electric toothbrush and a pint of Ben and Jerry's, you can still swipe the debit card and it will only pay out for the prescription.

So I like this new card pretty well. And I am tilting a little more to one side when I sit down, but not really very much at all.

Register now for Narrowing the Gulf Conference – Free for SPC faculty and staff

SPC's Critical Thinking Institute and the Florida Association on Higher Education and Disability (FL-AHEAD) present Narrowing the Gulf for Underrepresented Students in Postsecondary Education on March 18-19, at the EpiCenter. Conference details and registration information are available online at <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/ossed/conference.htm>.

Lifelong learning trips

Make plans now to join one of the [upcoming Lifelong Learning trips](#):

- Mount Dora Tea & Antiques Tour, Saturday, Feb. 20
- Fort Myers/Pine Island/Edison Estate, Friday, March 19
- Savannah Arts & History Tour, May 12-15

For details on other Lifelong Learning classes, visit the [Lifelong Learning Web site](#).

FOCUS ON TRAINING

SPC's Staff and Professional Development program has expanded the available training opportunities for college employees. Each month, the *Blue & White* features a different training opportunity.

You've got mail

Someone once said, "If e-mail had been around before the telephone was invented people would have said, 'Hey, forget e-mail – with this new telephone invention I can actually talk to people.' "

Though that may be true, the reality is that e-mail is a convenient way to communicate with people and it's most certainly here to stay. Consequently, it's imperative that we learn how to use it effectively and efficiently.

If you're interested in learning how to do just that, our [Video](#)

[Streaming Library](#) has a couple of modules available that can help including:

How to Survive E-mail Overload
Using E-mail Effectively

If you're interested in enrolling: First, go to the [Video Streaming Library](#) and view the **Available Courses**.

After choosing the training you are interested in, get your supervisor's verbal approval before enrolling. Click on the **Enroll Now** link to fill out the Video Streaming Library Application.

Wait for an e-mail response with your assigned user name and password and you are ready to **Get Started**.

The Staff and Professional Development team is also willing to come out and facilitate a training for your team or department that would coincide with any of the modules that you complete on the Video Streaming Library.

For more information, [contact Eric Sierra](#) in Human Resources at Ext. 3228.

Direct deposit to replace all payroll checks as of March 1

As of March 1, the college no longer will issue paper payroll checks except in cases of demonstrated hardship. As of that date, employee pay will be distributed **only through direct deposit**.

The Board of Trustees voted at its December meeting to adopt revised payroll procedures requiring employees to have their payroll checks deposited through the college's Direct Deposit Program. Employees must fill out a Direct Deposit Authorization Form identifying where their payroll checks are to be deposited.

Employees who close their accounts, or move them to other

institutions, must notify the college by filling out a new authorization form.

Employees who fail to promptly complete the form may experience delays in receiving their checks.

Employees who can demonstrate a hardship may be exempted from the Direct Deposit Program. Requests for exemption must contain clear explanations of the reasons why, and include supporting documentation.

Link to the [Direct Deposit Authorization Form](#) (pdf) and [Direct Deposit Hardship Form](#) (pdf) here or from the [Human Resource Web site](#).

Meeting Notices

The **St. Petersburg College Board of Trustees** will hold a [public meeting on Feb. 12](#) at 9 a.m. at the EpiCenter, Room 1-153, 13805 58th St. N., Largo, FL.

The **St. Petersburg College Foundation, Inc.** will have a Planned Giving Committee meeting on Feb. 16 at noon, in the President's Dining Room at the District Office of St. Petersburg College, 6021 142nd Ave. N., Largo. This meeting will be to consider routine business.

The **St. Petersburg Alumni Association, Inc.** will have a Board of Directors meeting on Feb. 16 at 6 p.m., in the President's Dining Room at the District Office of St. Petersburg College, 6021 142nd Ave. N., Largo. These meeting will be to consider routine business.

Equal Opportunity

St. Petersburg College is dedicated to the concept of equal opportunity. The college will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or marital status, or against any qualified individual with disabilities, in its employment practices or in the admission and treatment of students. Recognizing that sexual harassment constitutes discrimination on the basis of sex and violates this rule, the college will not tolerate such conduct. Should you experience such behavior, please contact the director of EA/EO at 727-341-3261; by mail at P.O. Box 13489, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3489; or by e-mail at ea_eo_director@spcollege.

St. Petersburg College – FEBRUARY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
☆☆☆☆ Angel System Offline Daily 6-7AM ☆☆☆☆						
0420 = SPRING 0425 =SUMMER 0430 = FALL	1 0425 Summer Semi-Final Draft Course Schedule	2 DUE DATE: 0420 Spring Express Classes	3 0425 Summer Room Release to NONC PDS 0425 Summer Final Draft Course Schedule <u>List to Dean/AC/PD</u> Deadline for 2/23 C & I Meeting	4 5 0420 Spring Sr Citz/St EmPLY Express CI Reg <u>BEGINS</u> HR mails Instructional Agreement Letters <u>0425 Summer Course List</u> sent to IA P.A.S.S. Reports Due 0420 Spring FA Credit Balance Disbursement BEGINS	5 0420 Spring Sr Citz/St EmPLY Express CI Reg <u>BEGINS</u> HR mails Instructional Agreement Letters <u>0425 Summer Course List</u> sent to IA P.A.S.S. Reports Due 0420 Spring FA Credit Balance Disbursement BEGINS	6
7	8 0425 Summer Due dates for A&SA 0420 Spring Express <u>Classes Begin</u>	9 0425 Summer Reg Cards Reviewed by A&SA <u>C & I Meeting</u>	10 DUE DATE : 0420 Spring Financial Aid	11 Last day to with- draw with "W" 0420 Spring 1 st 8-Wk Mod <u>Class</u>	12 0420 Spring Sr Citz/St EmPLY Express CI Reg <u>ENDS</u> Last day to drop/ref/ chg to audit 0420 Spring Express Classes	13
14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> SSI BEGINS for 0420 Spring 1 st 8 WK Mod Classes	15 <i>Presidents' Day</i> <u>SE Library CLOSED</u> SP Library OPEN – In Session_Hrs	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 <u>C & I Meeting</u> 1098T File to IRS	24	25 SSI ENDS for 0420 Spring 1 st 8 WK Mod Classes	26	27
28						